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PAGE 01 PARIS 19857 01 OF 03 201809Z
ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	DOEE-00	OIGO-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00
	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01
	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00
	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	SA-01
	FMP-00	SNIS-00	NISC-02	PMB-00	PRM-10	DRL-09	G-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 19857

DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR USAID

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, EAID, PREF, AF, RW, FR
SUBJECT: RWANDA: AID ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD'S MEETINGS WITH
GOF OFFICIALS

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PAGE 02 PARIS 19857 01 OF 03 201809Z
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1. C - ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY. AID ADMINISTRATOR AND SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL
ENVOY TO RWANDA BRIAN ATWOOD DISCUSSED THE RWANDAN CRISIS
WITH QUAI OFFICIALS JULY 20. ATWOOD EMPHASIZED THAT, IN
DEALING WITH THE HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE, PRIORITY
ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO ENCOURAGING THE NEW GOVERNMENT
IN KIGALI TO ACT RESPONSIBLY. ALSO A PRIORITY IS THE
PREVENTION OF A FUTURE COUNTEROFFENSIVE BY EX-GOVERNMENT

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FORCES WHICH HAVE CROSSED INTO ZAIRE AND MAY BE TRYING TO REGROUP. GOF OFFICIALS STRONGLY SECONDED ATWOOD'S APPEAL FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOCUSSED ON STOPPING AND REVERSING THE EXODUS OF RWANDANS INTO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

3. QUAI SECRETARY GENERAL DUFOURCQ LAMENTED THE TARDY RESPONSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO THE CRISIS AND URGED AN ACCELERATION OF UNAMIR DEPLOYMENT, POSSIBLY DRAWING ON UNOSOM ASSETS. HE ALSO INSISTED ON THE QUICKEST POSSIBLE DISPATCH OF UN WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATORS TO RWANDA. FRENCH FORCES, HE SAID, DO NOT HAVE THE TIME OR THE TRAINING TO TRACK DOWN AND ARREST WAR CRIMINALS, BUT WILL COOPERATE FULLY WITH UN INVESTIGATORS WHEN THE LATTER ARRIVE. DUFOURCQ WILL LEAD A GOF MISSION TO KIGALI JULY 21 TO URGE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES. END SUMMARY.

ATWOOD BRIEFS FRENCH

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PAGE 03 PARIS 19857 01 OF 03 201809Z

4. DURING A BRIEF PARIS TRANSIT ON HIS RETURN FROM RWANDA, AID ADMINISTRATOR AND SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY TO RWANDA BRIAN ATWOOD CALLED ON QUAI SECRETARY GENERAL BERTRAND DUFOURCQ JULY 20 TO REVIEW THE SITUATION IN RWANDA. OTHER FRENCH PARTICIPANTS WERE QUAI AFRICA DIRECTOR ROCHEREAU DE LA SABLIERE, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DEPUTY DIRECTOR LAPOUGE, AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION MINISTRY OFFICIAL PLUM.

5. ATWOOD OPENED BY THANKING THE GOF FOR THE COOPERATION OF FRENCH FORCES DURING HIS JUST-COMPLETED TRIP TO THE REGION. DURING THIS TRIP, ATWOOD SAID, HE HAD LEARNED OF AN ADDITIONAL 400,000 REFUGEES MOVING THROUGH KAMANYOLA AND OF 150,000 LOCATED AT BUKAVU. (QUAI OFFICIALS WERE UNAWARE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS.) ATWOOD MENTIONED THE PROBLEM OF THE MILLES COLLINES TRANSMITTER, NOTING THAT THE OPERATION TURQUOISE COMMANDER AWAITED EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD ENABLE HIM TO TRACK ITS LOCATION. ATWOOD SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE INFLAMMATORY BROADCASTS BE STOPPED.

6. THE U.S. HAS NOT RECOGNIZED THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN KIGALI, ATWOOD EXPLAINED, BUT IS ENCOURAGING IT TO BE

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BROADLY-BASED AND CONCILIATORY AND TO IMPLEMENT THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. A GOOD FIRST STEP HAS BEEN THE NAMING OF HUTU MODERATES AS PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER, ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION REMAINED OF HOW MUCH LATITUDE THEY WILL BE GIVEN BY THE RPF. THE U.S., ATWOOD SAID, WOULD MEASURE THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE NOT ONLY BY ITS WORDS BUT BY ITS DEEDS. ONE IMPORTANT GESTURE, ATWOOD CONTINUED, WOULD BE

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PAGE 04 PARIS 19857 01 OF 03 201809Z
FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE HUTUS HELD IN INTERNMENT CAMPS SO THAT THEY COULD CULTIVATE CROPS WHICH WILL OTHERWISE SOON BE LOST, THUS CREATING A FURTHER HUMANITARIAN BURDEN. DUFOURCQ AGREED WITH THIS SUGGESTION AND MADE NOTE OF IT.

7. ATWOOD ASSURED THE FRENCH THAT THE U.S. SHARES THEIR SENSE OF URGENCY REGARDING UNAMIR DEPLOYMENT AND HAS ALREADY EQUIPPED THE GHANIAN BATTALION. IF THE CEASEFIRE HOLDS, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE THAT UNAMIR WON'T NEED AS MUCH HEAVY EQUIPMENT AS ANTICIPATED AND COULD THEREFORE BE

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PAGE 01 PARIS 19857 02 OF 03 201810Z
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PAGE 02 PARIS 19857 02 OF 03 201810Z
DEPLOYED MORE QUICKLY. ATWOOD SAID THAT THIS NEEDED TO BE
EXPLORED WITH GENERAL DALLAIRE.

8. REVIEWING U.S. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, ATWOOD SAID
THE U.S. HAD JUST CONTRIBUTED A USDOLS 35 MILLION ADDITION
AND HOPED TO ANNOUNCE JULY 21 ANOTHER USDOLS 41 MILLION.
EIGHTY DOD FLIGHTS INTO THE REGION WERE PROJECTED IN THE
NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. ATWOOD SAID THAT THE KEY TO EFFECTIVE
DELIVERY OF FOOD AID IN THE NORTH WAS GOMA AIRPORT, SINCE
ROAD TRANSPORT FROM KAMPALA COULD NOT REALISTICALLY BEGIN
FOR ANOTHER THREE TO FOUR WEEKS. ATWOOD ADDED THAT
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION NEEDED TO BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISHMENT
OF A MULTI-NATIONAL AIR OPERATIONS CELL AT GOMA AIRPORT
BASED ON THE SARAJEVO MODEL.

9. ATWOOD SAID HE HAD FOUND THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI
"STILL CALM." HE HAD CAUTIONED THE TUTSIS THERE AGAINST
DRAWING THE WRONG CONCLUSIONS FROM THE RPF'S VICTORY.
MUCH MORE WORRISOME IS THE SITUATION ACROSS THE BORDER IN
ZAIRE WHERE, ATWOOD SAID, HUTU MILITARY UNITS HAD TAKEN
REFUGE AND MAINTAINED COHESION. SOME OF THEM WERE
CLAIMING THAT IF THE TUTSIS HAD CROSSED INTO RWANDA WITH

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AN ARMY OF 12,000, THEY (THE HUTUS) WOULD RETURN WITH AN ARMY OF "3 MILLION." ATWOOD EMPHASIZED THAT THIS PROBLEM HAD TO BE ADDRESSED. EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS APPREHENDING THE WAR CRIMINALS. ATWOOD NOTED THE DILEMMA OF PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WHICH UNINTENTIONALLY CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH ARMED ELEMENTS MIGHT BE ABLE TO REGROUP.

10. OVERALL, ATWOOD SAID, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE
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PAGE 03 PARIS 19857 02 OF 03 201810Z
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RESPOND QUICKLY TO THE
HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AND CONFIGURE THE AID IN SUCH A WAY
THAT RWANDANS STOPPED FLEEING AND EVENTUALLY RETURNED HOME.

FRENCH RESPONSE

11. DUFOURCQ SAID THE GOF'S ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION CLOSELY PARALLELED OURS. ON THE RADIO TRANSMITTER, HE AFFIRMED THAT DIRECTION-FINDING EQUIPMENT HAD ARRIVED IN RWANDA AND THAT JAMMING EQUIPMENT WAS ON THE WAY. HE WAS SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL THAT EITHER WOULD WORK AS LONG AS THE TRANSMITTER WAS MOBILE.

12. REGARDING WAR CRIMINALS, DUFOURCQ RECALLED THAT FRANCE WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO CONDEMN THE RWANDAN GENOCIDE AND HAD AUTHORED THE RESOLUTION FOR A UN INQUIRY INTO WAR CRIMES. BUT FRANCE HAD ONLY 1,500 TROOPS IN THE SAFE ZONE AND 1,000 FURTHER NORTH, AND THEY WERE IN NO POSITION TO INVESTIGATE OR DETAIN SUSPECTS. IT WASN'T A QUESTION OF LACKING A MANDATE, BUT RATHER OF LIMITED MANPOWER AND OTHER PRIORITIES. IN ANY EVENT, ALL FRENCH TROOPS WILL HOPEFULLY BE WITHDRAWN WITHIN FOUR WEEKS. IN THE MEANTIME, THE GOF INSISTS -- AS IT HAS FOR WEEKS -- THAT THE UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY "DO ITS JOB" AND GET INVESTIGATORS TO RWANDA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FRENCH FORCES WILL MAKE ALL THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE AVAILABLE TO THE UN TEAMS.

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PAGE 04 PARIS 19857 02 OF 03 201810Z

13. DUFOURCQ LIKEWISE UNDERLINED THE NECESSITY OF A RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF UNAMIR. DALLAIRE HAD ASSURED THE GOF, DUFOURCQ SAID, THAT UNAMIR WOULD TAKE OVER PROGRESSIVELY AS ITS UNITS ARRIVED. DE LA SABLIERE AND LAPOUGE INTERJECTED THAT IT WAS URGENT TO REVISIT THE IDEA OF A TEMPORARY DEPLOYMENT OF UNOSOM UNITS FROM SOMALIA. THE GOF DISAGREED WITH THE U.S. AND UN VIEW THAT 2,000 OR SO TROOPS FROM UNOSOM COULDN'T BE SPARED.

14. REGARDING AID REQUIREMENTS, PLUM POINTED OUT THAT THE OVERWHELMING NEED AT THE PRESENT TIME IS FOOD. THERE ARE 1.2 MILLION REFUGEES IN THE FRENCH SAFE ZONE, AND THE GOF IS ABLE TO FEED ONLY HALF OF THEM. IF THIS POPULATION IS NOT STABILIZED, IT WILL SOON START MOVING INTO ZAIRE. THE FRENCH OFFICIALS URGED THAT THE U.S. CONSIDER USING BUJUMBURA AS A "PLATFORM" FOR MOVING ASSISTANCE INTO THE SAFE ZONE AND SOUTHERN RWANDA.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 19857 03 OF 03 201810Z

15. WHEN FRENCH OFFICIALS APPEALED FOR THE U.S. TO USE ITS INFLUENCE TO ENSURE THAT UN AGENCIES COORDINATED AND MOVED QUICKLY, ATWOOD AGREED WITH THE NEED. HE POINTED TO THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF UN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR HANSEN AND ALSO TO THE NEED TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH UNHCR RELIEF OPERATIONS INADVERTENTLY PULLED POPULATIONS OUT OF RWANDA.

16. DUFOURCQ CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD LEAD A GOF MISSION TO KIGALI JULY 21, PRIMARILY TO IMPRESS UPON THE NEW GOVERNMENT THE NEED TO REBUILD CONFIDENCE AND BEGIN RECONCILIATION. HE NOTED THAT THE GOF HAD VERY LITTLE INFORMATION ON CONDITIONS IN RWANDA OUTSIDE THE SAFE ZONE AND ASKED IF THE U.S. HAD ANY. ATWOOD NOTED THAT OUR CONTACT WITH GENERAL KAGAME HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND HAD BEEN ONLY RECENTLY RESTORED. WE HAD SINCE HEARD THAT HE HAD PROMISED UN OFFICIALS THAT THE RPF WOULD RESPECT INTERNATIONAL RULES CONCERNING WAR CRIMINALS AND WOULD TRY TO CREATE CONDITIONS TO INDUCE THE HUTUS TO RETURN.

17. THE DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH ATWOOD AND DUFOURCQ NOTING THAT THE U.S. AND FRANCE AGREED CLOSELY ON THE NATURE AND URGENCY OF THE CRISIS AND ON THE STEPS NEEDED TO ADDRESS IT.

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